

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A coating device for coating ~~for example, lenticular or granular~~ items, comprising a drum rotatably mounted about a horizontal axis for accommodation of the items during a coating process, a loading device for filling the items into the drum, a closeable opening in the drum for admission of the uncoated items prior to coating into the same drum and for allowing discharge of the coated items following coating from the same drum, and a spraying device disposed within the drum for coating said items, wherein an unloading device is provided beneath said drum for removing the coated items, and between said unloading device and said drum there is provided a reciprocatory screening element securely attached, for guiding purposes, to at least one roller-mounted guide rail, said screening element being movable ~~which can be moved~~ back and forth between a first position screening off said unloading device to a second position opening said unloading device.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A device as defined in claim 1, wherein said screening element is curved.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A device as defined in claim 2, wherein said screening element is in the form of part of a cylinder barrel.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A device as defined in claim 3, wherein the radius of said cylinder barrel is dimensioned such that the screening element surrounds said drum with a minimum space therebetween.

Claim 5 (previously presented): A device as defined in claim 3, wherein said screening element is provided, at each of the curved ends thereof, with a front abutment surface.

Claim 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (currently amended): A device as defined in claim 6, wherein said at least one guide rail is dimensioned to have a length such that said screening element can be swung through approximately 90 degrees.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A device as defined in claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein two guide rails are provided.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A device as defined in claim 8, wherein said guide rails are connected to said front abutment surfaces of said screening element.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A device as defined in claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein at least one roller bearing is fixed to said unloading device to enable reciprocatory displacement of said guide rails of said screening element.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A device as defined in claim 10, wherein said at least one guide rail is of round cross-section and the rollers of a roller bearing are concave in cross-section.

Claim 12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (currently amended): A device as defined in claim ~~12~~ 19, wherein said curved toothed rack is attached to the outer surface of said cylinder barrel.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A device as defined in claim ~~12~~ 19, wherein said toothed wheel is attached to said unloading device.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A device as defined in claim 1, wherein the spraying device for the cleaning liquid is disposed in the vicinity of the spraying device used for coating the items.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A device as defined in claim 1, wherein said unloading device includes a funnel-shaped trough.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A device as defined in claim 16, wherein the discharging device beneath said funnel-shaped trough contains a conveyor belt for the removal of the items in a controlled manner.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A device as defined in claim 1, wherein a plurality of iterative coating processes can be carried out successively using different coating materials in each case.

Claim 19 (new): A coating device for coating items,  
comprising

(a) a drum rotatably mounted about a horizontal axis for  
accommodation of the items during a coating process;

(b) a loading device for filling the items into the drum;

(c) a closeable opening in the drum for admission of the  
items prior to coating into the drum and for allowing discharge  
of the items following coating from the drum;

(d) a spraying device disposed within the drum for coating  
said items;

(e) an unloading device beneath said drum for removing the  
coated items; and

(f) a reciprocatory screening element between said  
unloading device and said drum, said screening element being  
movable back and forth between a first position screening off  
said unloading device to a second position opening said unloading  
device;

wherein said screening element is connected to a curved  
toothed rack which cooperates with a motor-driven toothed wheel  
for causing reciprocatory displacement of said screen element.